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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of our salvation, deliver us from fear. Your might and majesty continue to bring us peace in spite of the challenges we face. Lord, we can meet these challenges with Your power that transcends human understanding. When You whisper, dangers flee into the darkness. The sound of Your footsteps causes tribulations to hide.

Almighty God, permit our lawmakers to be aware of Your providential guidance. May they depend on You to lead them according to Your will. Give them the wisdom to trust You when they can't see the road before them, believing that You will be their light in the darkness.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask permission to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Americans from coast to coast hunkered down to stop the spread of the virus. Office workers, including my staff in Washington, adapted to work from home. But not all Americans can do their jobs from home. Many must work away from home to provide essential services for our communities. I am talking about workers who harvest, process, and deliver our food; the crews who provide sanitation services and keep our communications, transportation, and energy grids running around the clock; America's postal workers and truckdrivers who deliver mail and transport goods across the country; the grocery store clerks and factory workers who make toilet paper, diapers, and consumer products we can't live without.

On behalf of Iowans and the rest of America, I thank the frontline workers who are on the job, working away from home, in the line of duty. Thank you all for your service and sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is back in session. In this unusual period for our Nation, it has been more than 5 weeks since the full Senate last convened. As I explained on

March 25, right before we passed the CARES Act 96 to 0, the Senate has kept right on working this whole time.

We have monitored the implementation of that bill—the largest rescue package in American history—and strengthened it where necessary. We passed further legislation to provide even more economic assistance, even more support of testing, and more relief for hospitals and healthcare workers.

This deadly coronavirus does not take days off, and so the U.S. Senate has not either. For more than a month, we were among the many Americans who have found creative ways to telework and continue doing our jobs remotely. But now the time has come for us to continue conducting our Nation's business in ways that are only possible with Senators here in the Capitol.

For this work period, the Senate will shift out of the ranks of those Americans who are working remotely and into the ranks of the Americans working in essential sectors who are listening to expert guidance and modifying their routines and ultimately continuing to man their posts to keep the country running.

If it is essential that brave healthcare workers, grocery store workers, truckdrivers, and many other Americans continue to carefully show up for work, then it is essential that their U.S. Senators carefully show up ourselves and support them.

I want to thank the dedicated men and women who worked hard to develop solutions so the Senate can take

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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